



2 Thessalonians (Part-1)
Verse by verse book study
October 08, 2023

2 THESSALONIANS 1

The second letter was written shortly after the first epistle about 52 A.D. Perhaps within a few weeks after writing the first epistle. Paul would have heard back from the Thessalonians or received reports on how they were doing and felt the need to address a few matters immediately.

There seem to be two main issues that prompted the writing of the second epistle:

1, There seems to have been people who misrepresented Paul indicating that Paul had said that the day of the Lord had already come (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3). So, Paul had to clarify and provide more details on when the day of the Lord is likely to come.

2, It appears that some believers felt that it was perhaps unnecessary to work, because the end of the world was close at hand. They engaged in gossip and idle talk. Paul had to be very firm with them, reiterating the importance of working, in very strong terms in this second epistle (3:8,12), what he had already mentioned in the first epistle.

GREETING

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because **your faith grows exceedingly, and **the love of every one of you all abounds** toward each other,**

4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for **your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,**

Paul is thankful and celebrates this thriving community of believers. As in the first epistle, he commends them for their faith, love, and endurance (hope-filled perseverance) despite the persecutions and troubles they had to face.

Our faith can grow (increase).

Our love can abound (increase).



WHEN HE COMES IN THAT DAY

5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted **worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;**

6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,

7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,**

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10 when He comes, **in that Day,** to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Paul once again reminds these believers about the “kingdom of God” and the coming of the Lord Jesus, to encourage them in their walk of faith, hope and love.

Notice and contrast the two comings:

The description, the purpose, the details of these two comings are very different and distinct, so that we can state with confidence that the apostle Paul is referring **to two different events.**

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 with 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18	2 Thessalonians 1:7-10
➤ God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus (vs 14) ➤ the coming of the Lord (vs 15) ➤ we who are alive and remain...will by no means precede those who are asleep (vs 15) ➤ for the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God (vs 16) ➤ the dead in Christ will rise first (vs 16) ➤ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the	➤ the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels (vs 7) ➤ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (vs 8) ➤ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (vs 9) ➤ when He comes, in that Day (vs 10) ➤ to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe (vs 10)



air (vs 17) ➤ And thus we shall always be with the Lord (vs 17)	
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WE PRAY ALWAYS FOR YOU

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,

12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul lets them know that he is continually praying for them and for God's work in and through them. He prayed that:

- God would count you worthy of this calling – enable you to live worthy of His calling.
 - God will fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness – God will complete His good work in you accomplishing all the good things He desires to do in and through you.
 - God will fulfill the work of faith with power – God will complete your work of faith with His power, so that you will see His power accompany and complete everything you do by faith.
 - The name of Jesus may be glorified in you – The Lord be magnified and honored through your lives.
 - And you may be glorified in Him – and may you also see God put honor on your lives.
- And all this happens because of the grace of God.

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

HIS COMING AND OUR GATHERING TOGETHER TO HIM

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.



5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

The Thessalonians seemed to have feared that they had missed the rapture and were left behind in the Great Tribulation (the day of the Lord). Hence they were troubled by this. Paul must have taught them clearly, that as believers we would be taken out and escape the day of God's wrath on the earth.

The man of sin, the son of perdition (son of destruction), who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. This is a clear reference to the Antichrist spoken of by Daniel, referred to by Jesus, and later highlighted by John in Revelation. Daniel described an individual person: The prince who is to come (Daniel 9:26), the king of fierce countenance (Daniel 8:23), the willful king (Daniel 11:36-45). The Lord Jesus described an individual person: The one who comes in his own name (John 5:43), the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel (Matthew 24:15).

Both Daniel and John in Revelation, reveal some of the things the Antichrist will do. He will demand worship. He will set himself up as God in the temple at Jerusalem, blaspheming God and demanding worship from everyone (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11 and Revelation 13:14-15 and Matthew 24:15,21,29-31).

The temple of God: This is a literal temple that will be setup in Jerusalem and has been understood as such by even the earliest Christians.

So in between *"the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him"*, and *"that Day"* when He comes *"in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God...and to be glorified in His saints"*, is when the man of sin, the son of perdition, the Antichrist does his evil work.

HE WHO NOW RESTRAINS WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.



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This is a very interesting and challenging passage that has different explanations by different scholars/Bible teachers. We will present briefly our understanding of this passage (in case you hold a differing view, that is fine).

What this passage teaches us is that there is something restraining or preventing the Antichrist from being revealed. When what is restraining is taken out of the way, the Antichrist will be revealed.

So of course, there has been much debate on “what is restraining”?

We must first point out that the “*what is restraining*” referred to in vs 6, is not an individual or person. So the “He” (male pronoun) that is used twice in vs 7 is not found in the Greek text. The use of the pronoun “He” is actually misleading and is not consistent with the “what is restraining” already used in vs 6.

In vs 7:

"he who now restrains" is correctly "what withholds now".

"he is taken" is correctly "it be brought"

So if we stated vs 7 correctly without the use of the “He” which is not in the original text:

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only *what withholds now* will do so until *it be brought out of the way*.

As Students of Scripture, we can propose, that “what is restraining” could either be (A)the Holy Spirit or (B)the Church. We see clearly that the Holy Spirit will be active and working throughout the seven years of tribulation. Hence, keeping in line with what Paul has already taught about the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18), we choose to conclude that “what is restraining” is the Church. Once the Church is taken out of the way, the man of sin, the son of perdition will be revealed.

We know that people will be saved through faith in Jesus and by the work of the Holy Spirit during the Tribulation. But the Church, the Body of Christ, as we know of its expression today, will be taken away.

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,



12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The Antichrist, comes empowered by satan, demonstrating lying signs and wonders. He uses the power of deception to lure people away from being saved. This is a time when God lets people go in strong delusion, believing a lie.

CHOSEN FOR SALVATION

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In contrast to the great deception of the tribulation period, Paul thanks God for the believers at Thessalonica that they have been chosen, saved and sanctified through faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

HOLD THE TRADITIONS

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,

17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Paul encourages them to stand strong and hold on to the traditions (the teachings) that were given to them orally and in writing.

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 3

PRAY FOR US

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,

2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.



Paul requested prayer that God's Word may be released through him and his team powerfully, be magnified, and that they be divinely protected. These are specific points we can pray for people who are out ministering.

THE LORD IS FAITHFUL

3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

Paul places trust in God's faithfulness to establish them and also protect them from the evil one.

WORK IN QUIETNESS

6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

This is the second matter that Paul addresses among the Thessalonians, perhaps in a very stern manner. He instructed believers to work and take care of their own personal needs.



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Paul pointed to his own life example. At the time Paul was writing this epistle, we have it clearly stated that Paul was working as a tentmaker in Corinth, along with Aquila and Priscilla, during the 18 months he was planting the church there (Acts 18:1-4). We can also safely infer that he engaged in work in this same occupation, in other places where he went preaching and planting churches.

BENEDICTION

16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.

17 The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *2 Thessalonians 1-3*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

A, Discuss and contrast the two comings of the Lord Jesus:

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 with 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

B, Discuss the explanation presented on "what is restraining" presented in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8



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C, Review the admonition given to believers to work with our own hands. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

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MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

This sermon series is a verse-by-verse study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the first two epistles written by the apostle Paul. In Part-4 of this series we cover 2 Thessalonians where Paul addresses two main areas of concern: the coming of the Lord Jesus, and the responsibility to work, while we live out our lives on earth, in readiness for the Lord's return.

KEYWORDS

1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, Thessalonians, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:



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